



# VIKRAMADITYA

COURAGE AND HONOUR WIN THE DAY

Vol 568







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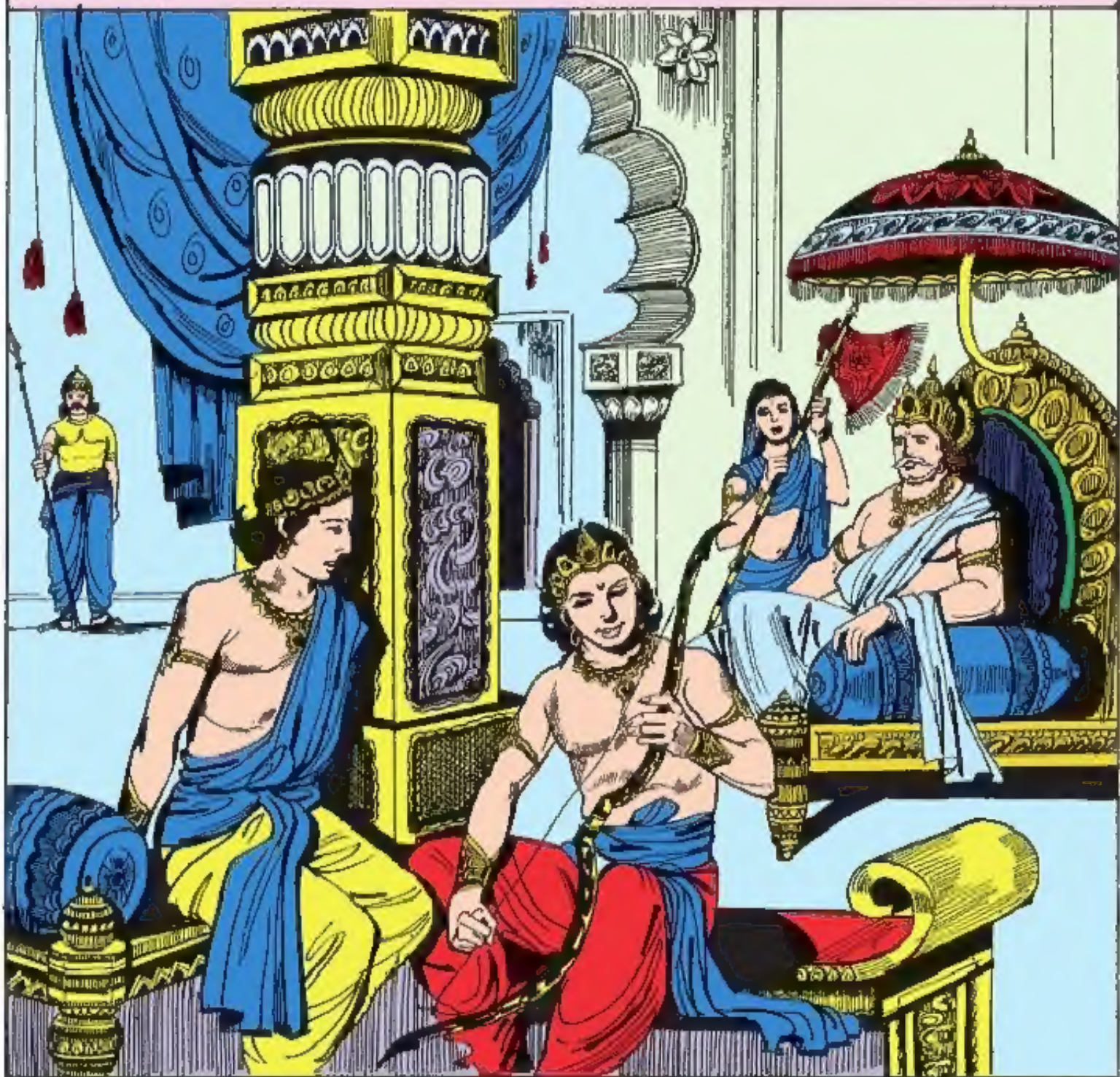
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# Vikramaditya



ABOUT 1,600 YEARS AGO, A VAST PART OF INDIA WAS RULED BY A GREAT KING, SAMUDRAGUPTA. PATALIPUTRA WAS ITS CAPITAL. THE KING HAD TWO SONS - RAMAGUPTA AND CHANDRAGUPTA.



THEY HAD A NUMBER OF PLAYMATES, SONS OF THEIR FATHER'S MINISTERS AND OFFICERS. ONE DAY -

PRASEN,  
SHALL WE  
GO TO THE  
RIVER BANK  
TO PLAY?

THAT  
WILL BE  
GREAT  
FUN!

THE RIVER  
BANK IS  
HAUNTED BY  
WILD BEASTS.  
LET US SEE  
WHAT  
FATHER  
SAYS.



THEY WENT TO THE KING.

MAY WE GO TO  
THE RIVER BANK  
FOR A WALK?

CERTAINLY  
MY SONS;  
YOU HAVE  
NOTHING TO  
FEAR.

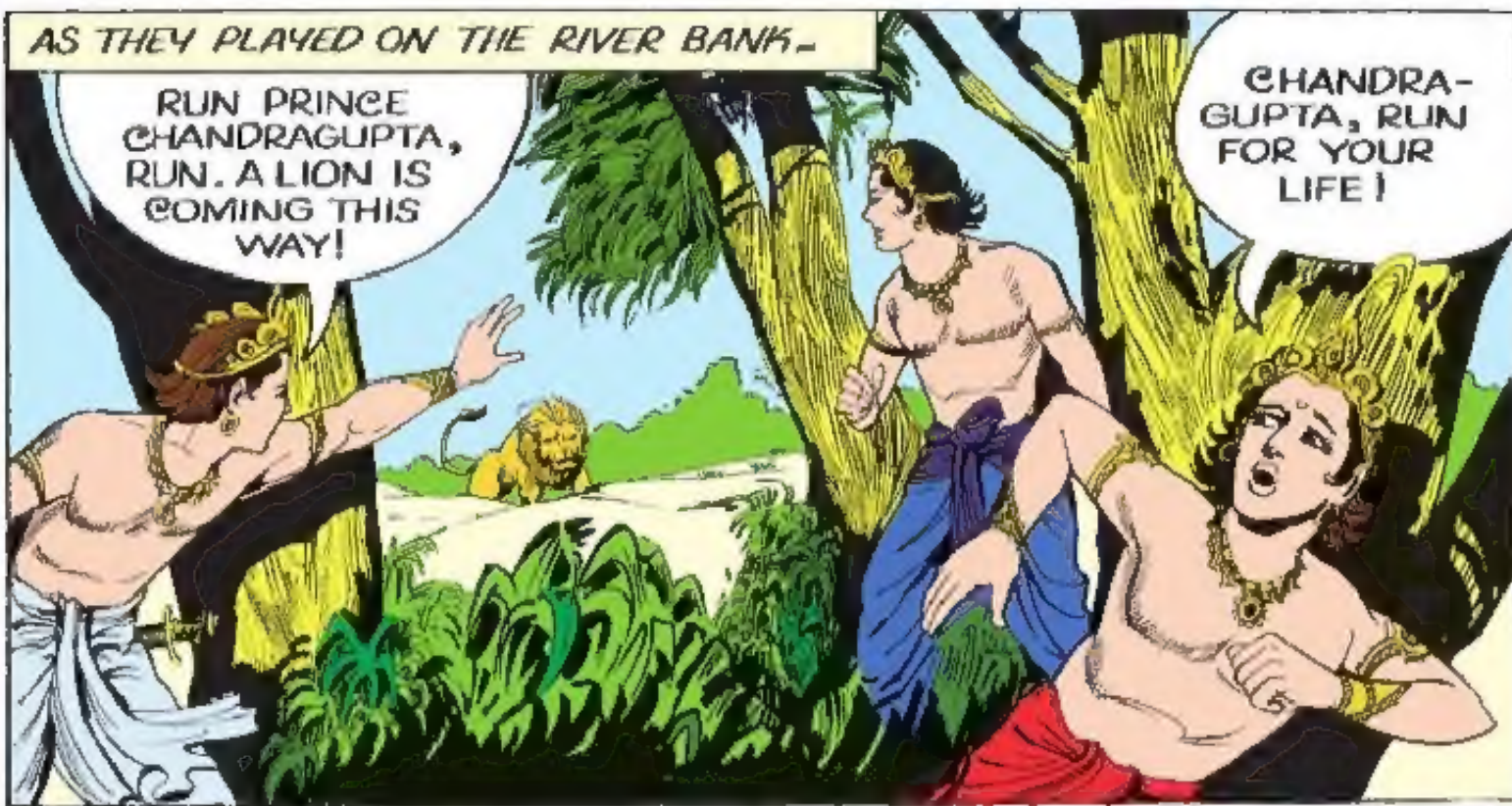




AS THEY PLAYED ON THE RIVER BANK -

RUN PRINCE  
CHANDRAGUPTA,  
RUN. A LION IS  
COMING THIS  
WAY!

CHANDRA-  
GUPTA, RUN  
FOR YOUR  
LIFE!



BUT CHANDRAGUPTA STOOD  
HIS GROUND.

LET IT COME.  
I'LL FACE IT.



AS THE LION ATTACKED HIM,  
CHANDRAGUPTA SIDE-STEPPED AND -



RAMAGUPTA,  
HE IS BRAVE,  
ISN'T HE?

HE WAS  
JUST TRY-  
ING TO  
SHOW OFF.






AS THE PRINCES DID NOT RETURN IN TIME, SAMUDRAGUPTA HAD SENT HIS SOLDIERS TO LOOK FOR THEM.

OH-OH! A DEAD LION  
AT THE FEET OF PRINCE  
CHANDRAGUPTA!



THE SOLDIERS RUSHED BACK AND INFORMED SAMUDRAGUPTA.


THAT'S LIKE MY  
SON. I HOPE HE  
IS NOT HURT.



AT THAT MOMENT THE PRINCES AND THEIR FRIENDS ARRIVED  
FOLLOWED BY A CHEERING CROWD.

I SAW HIM  
KILLING  
THE LION!


HE IS  
FEARLESS  
INDEED!











CHANDRAGUPTA  
MIGHT...

IT'S TOO SOON.  
YOUR FATHER'S  
ASHES ARE  
STILL WARM.

WHEN A FEW DAYS HAD GONE BY -

YOUR HOLINESS, PLEASE  
MAKE THE NECESSARY  
ARRANGEMENTS TO  
CROWN PRINCE  
RAMAGUPTA.

BUT  
OUR LATE  
MAHARAJ HAD WISHED  
PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA  
TO SUCCEED HIM.

BUT PRASEN!  
THE RIGHT OF  
SUCCESSION IS  
MY ELDER BROTHER'S.

THE CROWNING CEREMONY  
WAS PERFORMED.

MAY YOU  
SAFEGUARD THE  
TRADITIONS OF  
YOUR ANCESTORS  
AND THE COUNTRY,  
SIRE!

HE WILL SAFEGUARD  
NEITHER OF THE TWO.  
TAKE MY WORD  
FOR IT.



LATER RAMAGUPTA MARRIED DHRUVA DEVI, A PRINCESS OF MATCHLESS BEAUTY.

WELCOME, CHANDRA-GUPTA. THE QUEEN HAS BEEN ENQUIRING ABOUT YOU.

I HAD HEARD OF YOUR HEROIC DEEDS EVEN BEFORE I WAS MARRIED, CHANDRAGUPTA.



THE FOLLOWING DAY.

MADHAVI, THERE IS NO EXAGGERATION IN WHAT THEY SAY OF CHANDRA-GUPTA.

YES, HE DESERVES ALL THEY SAY AND MORE.



PRINCE CHANDRA-GUPTA RENOUNCED THE CROWN FOR YOUR HUSBAND.

IS THAT SO?



ONE DAY.

MY LORD, I AM TOLD PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA GAVE UP THE CROWN FOR YOU!

YOU MAY HAVE HEARD MANY MORE THINGS.

MY QUEEN, NOBODY EVER MAKES SUCH A SACRIFICE FOR ANOTHER.





SOME MONTHS LATER, THE KING WENT ON AN EXPEDITION TO THE SOUTHERN REGION OF THE KINGDOM. WHEN IT GREW DARK, THEY ALL CAMPED NEAR A RIVER.



NEXT MORNING WHEN THEY STARTED MARCHING AHEAD -



SOON A SOLDIER CAME RUSHING TO THE KING.





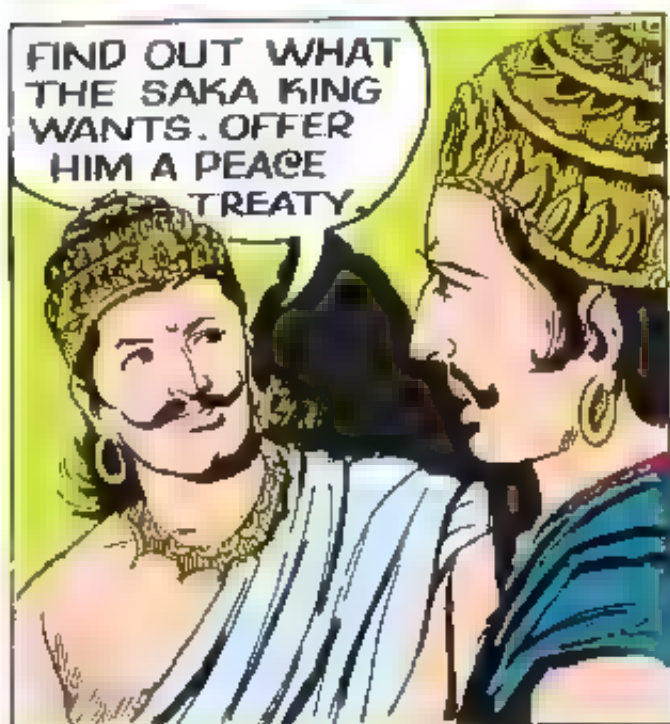
**SOME TIME LATER -**

I BRING BAD NEWS, O KING! THE PASS THROUGH WHICH WE CAME HAS ALSO BEEN CAPTURED BY THE SAKAS WE ARE TRAPPED!

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW? WE WILL BE MASSACRED. FIND SOME WAY OUT, MINISTER.



FIND OUT WHAT THE SAKA KING WANTS. OFFER HIM A PEACE TREATY.



A TREATY? IS THERE NO ALTERNATIVE?

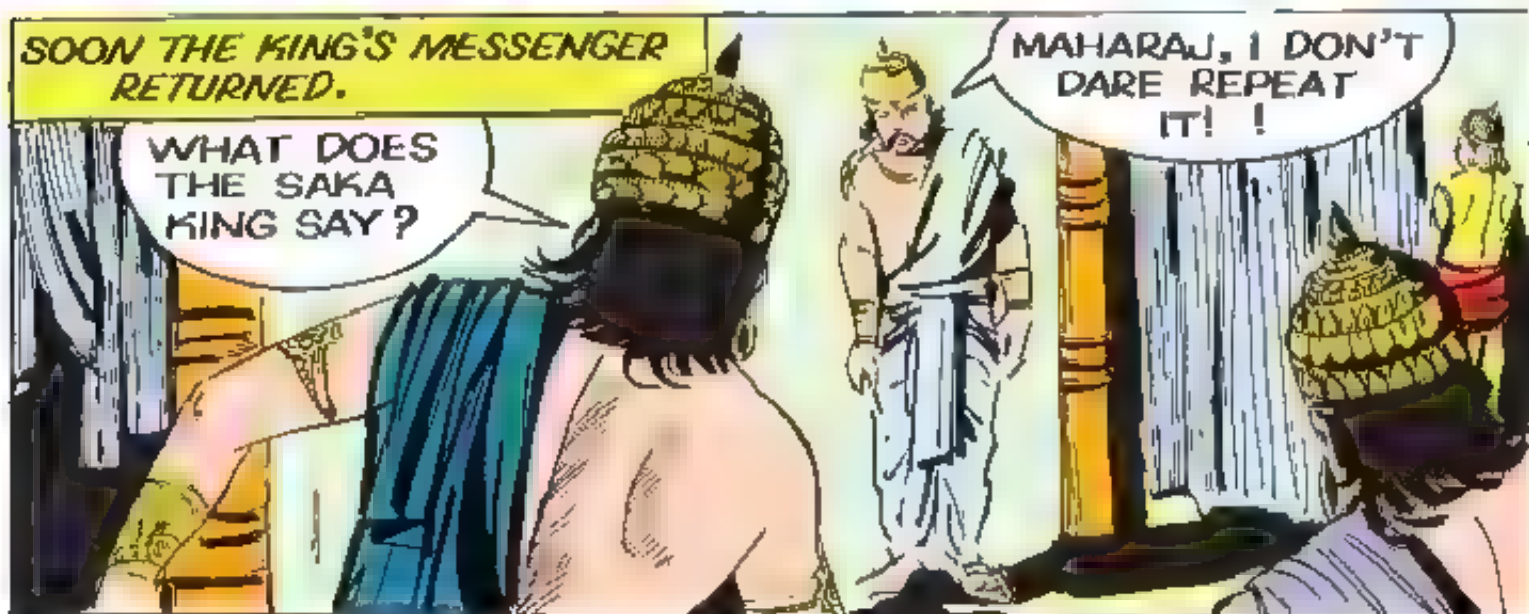
GO AWAY FROM HERE. DON'T MEDDLE IN THE MATTERS OF STATE.



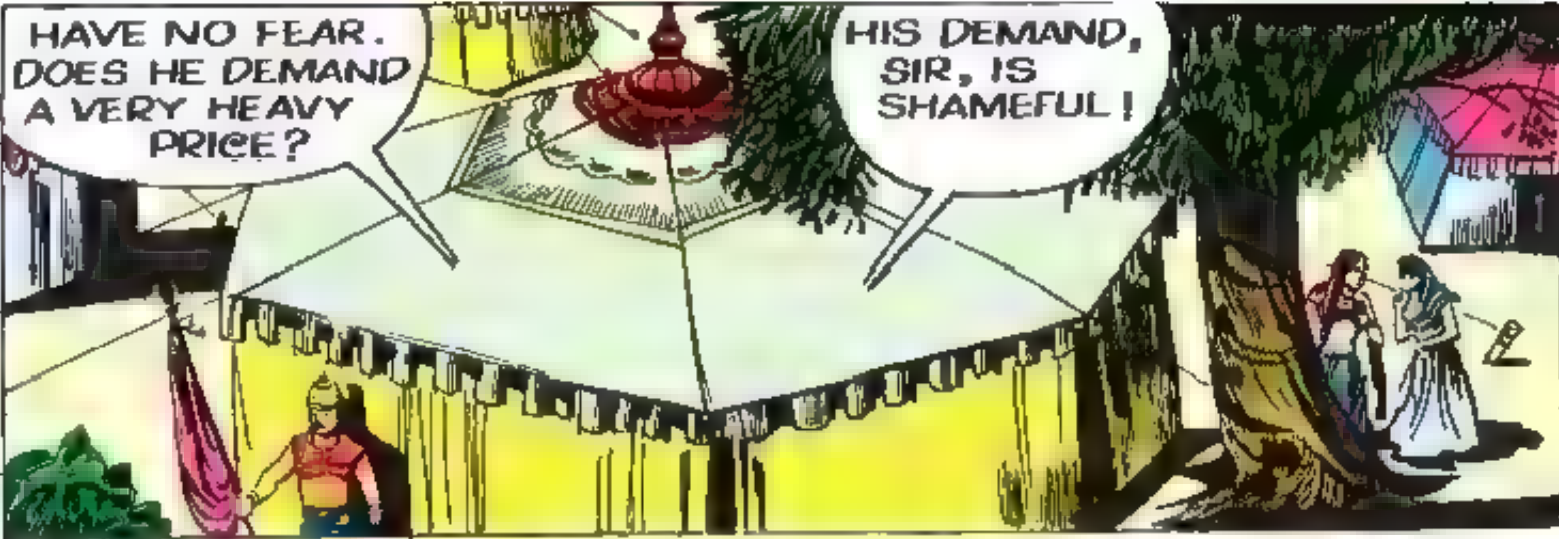
**SOON THE KING'S MESSENGER RETURNED.**

WHAT DOES THE SAKA KING SAY?

MAHARAJ, I DON'T DARE REPEAT IT!!

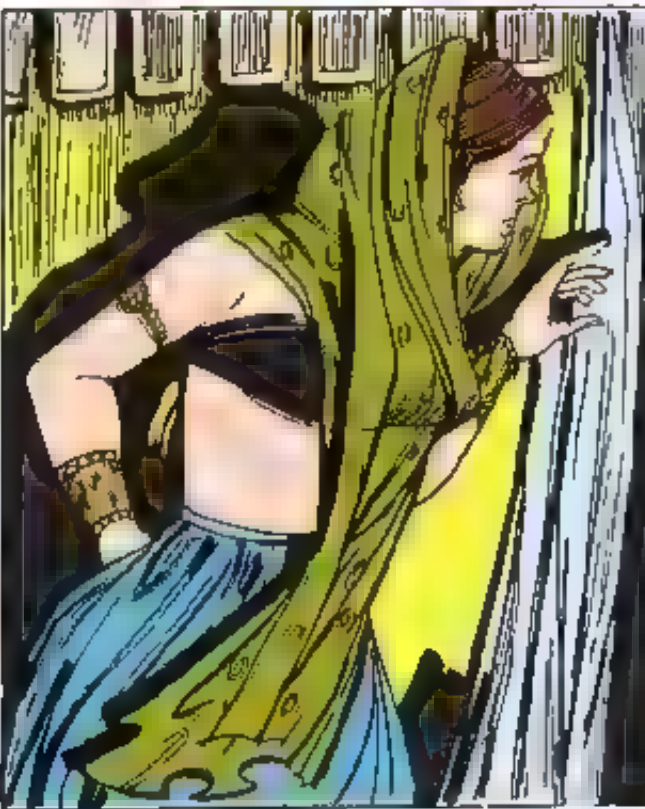







HAVE NO FEAR.  
DOES HE DEMAND  
A VERY HEAVY  
PRICE?

HIS DEMAND,  
SIR, IS  
SHAMEFUL!



I'LL PAY ANY  
PRICE FOR  
PEACE!



MAHARAJ, HE  
SAID MAHARANI  
DHARVA DEVI WAS  
TO HAVE BEEN  
MARRIED TO HIM,  
A LONG TIME  
AGO!



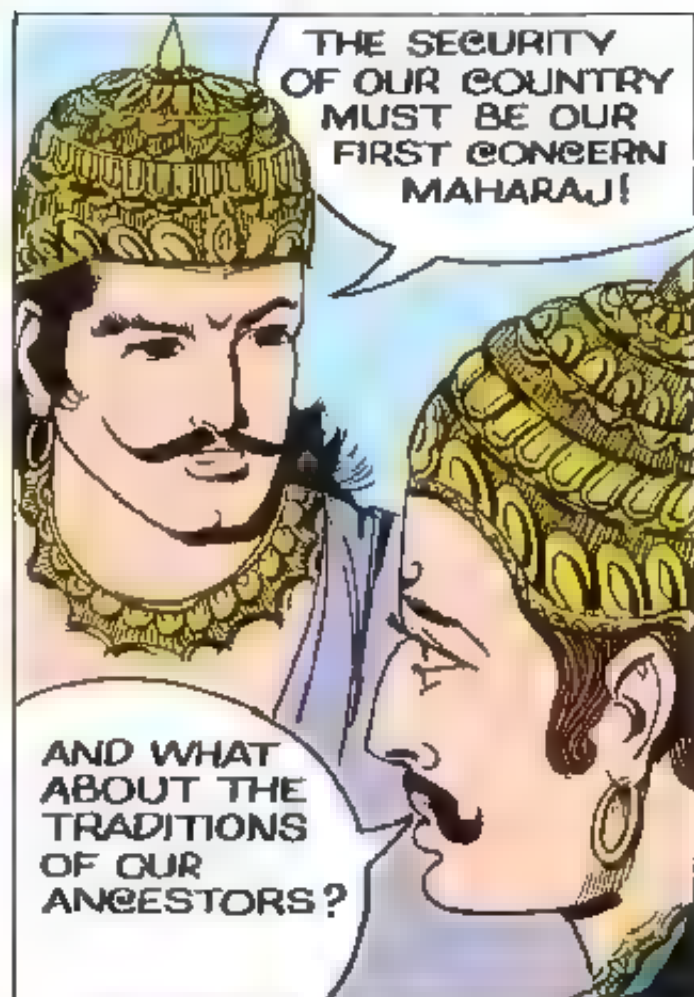
HE DEMANDS  
THE HAND OF  
OUR QUEEN?



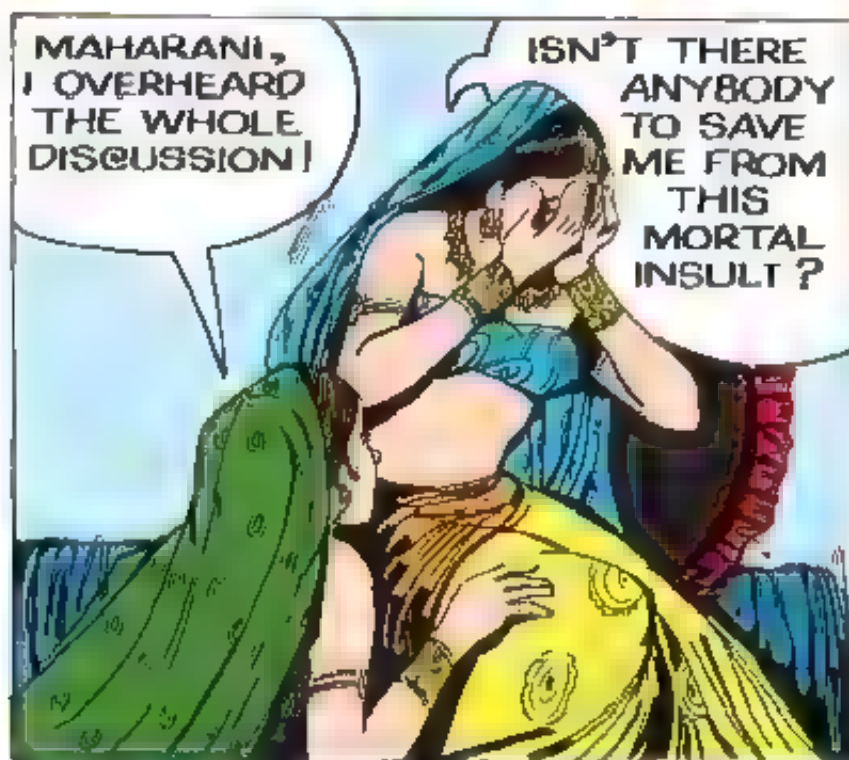
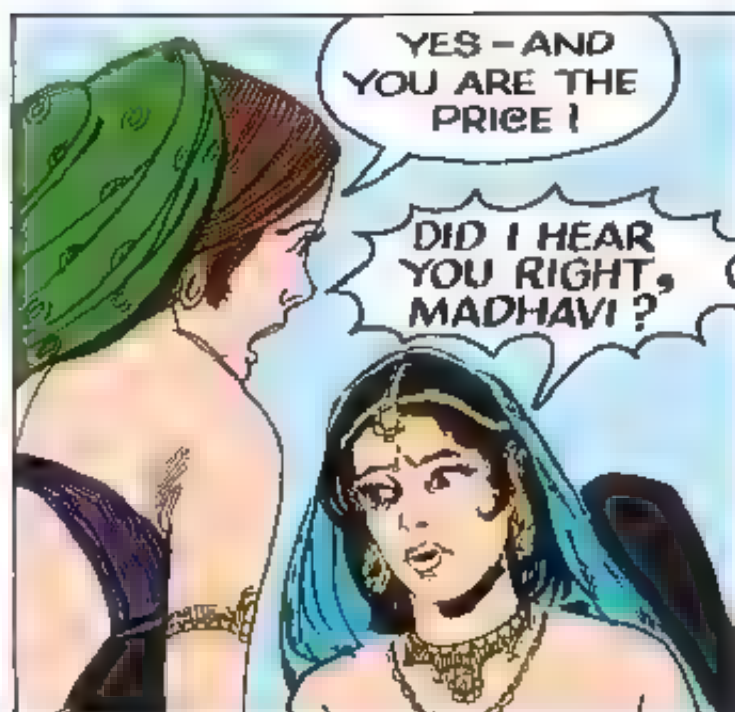
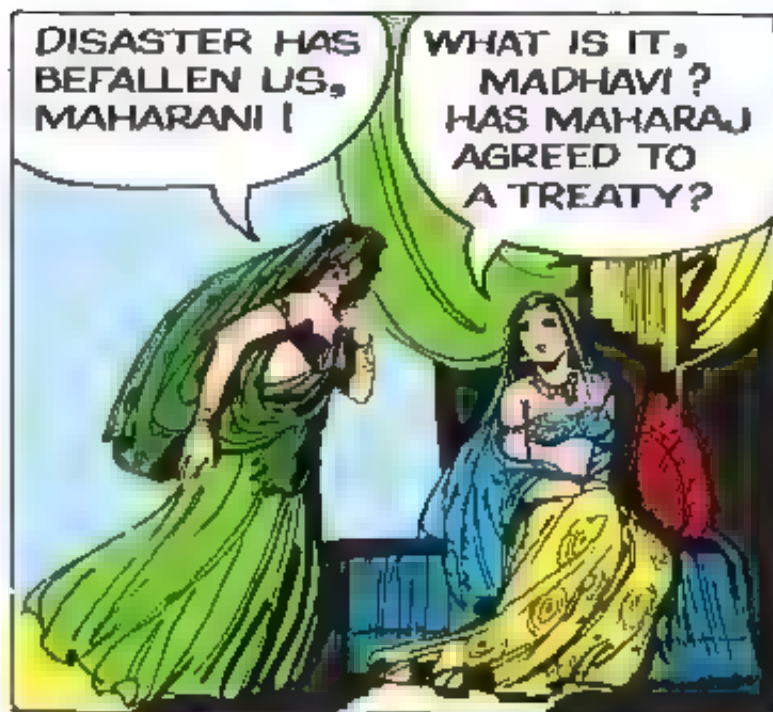
THAT'S  
RIGHT!

THIS  
IS RIDICULOUS.  
ISN'T THERE  
ANOTHER WAY OUT?











PLEASE CALM  
YOURSELF. NOBODY  
DARE INSULT YOU  
WHILE I AM  
ALIVE.

THE PRINCE  
ALWAYS HONOURS  
HIS WORD,  
MY QUEEN!

LATER -

MAY I HAVE A  
WORD WITH YOU,  
MAHARAJ!

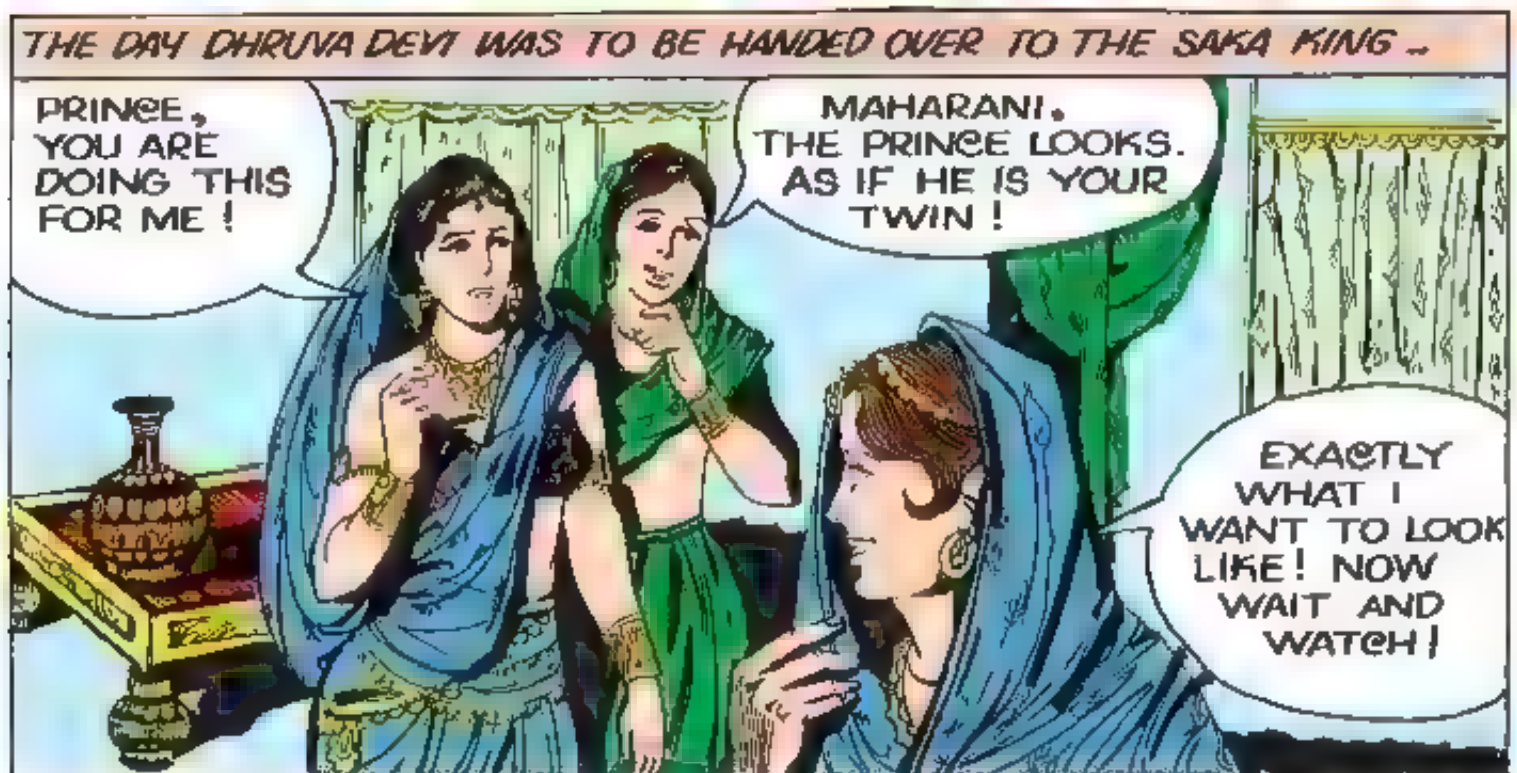
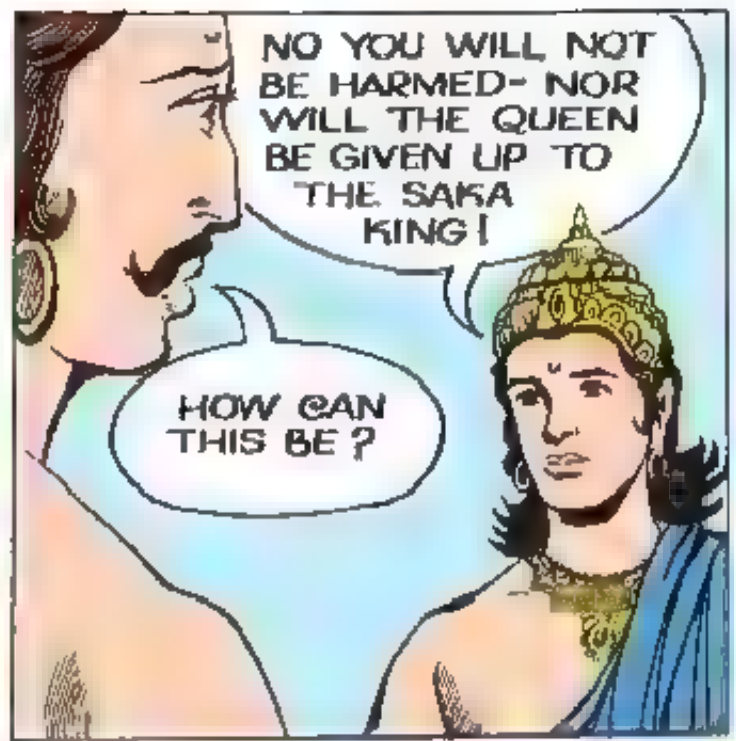
WHAT'S  
IT?

MAHARAJ, HAVE  
YOU REALLY  
AGREED TO HAND  
OVER MAHARANI  
DHARVA DEVI  
TO THE  
SAKA KING?

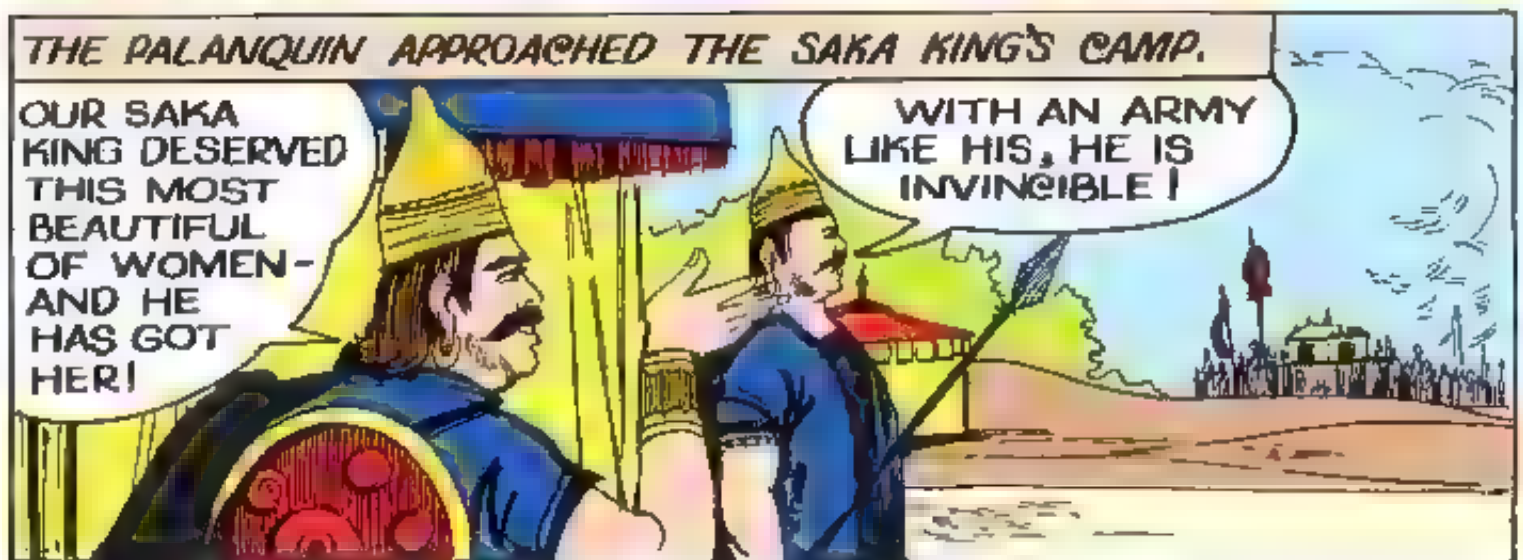
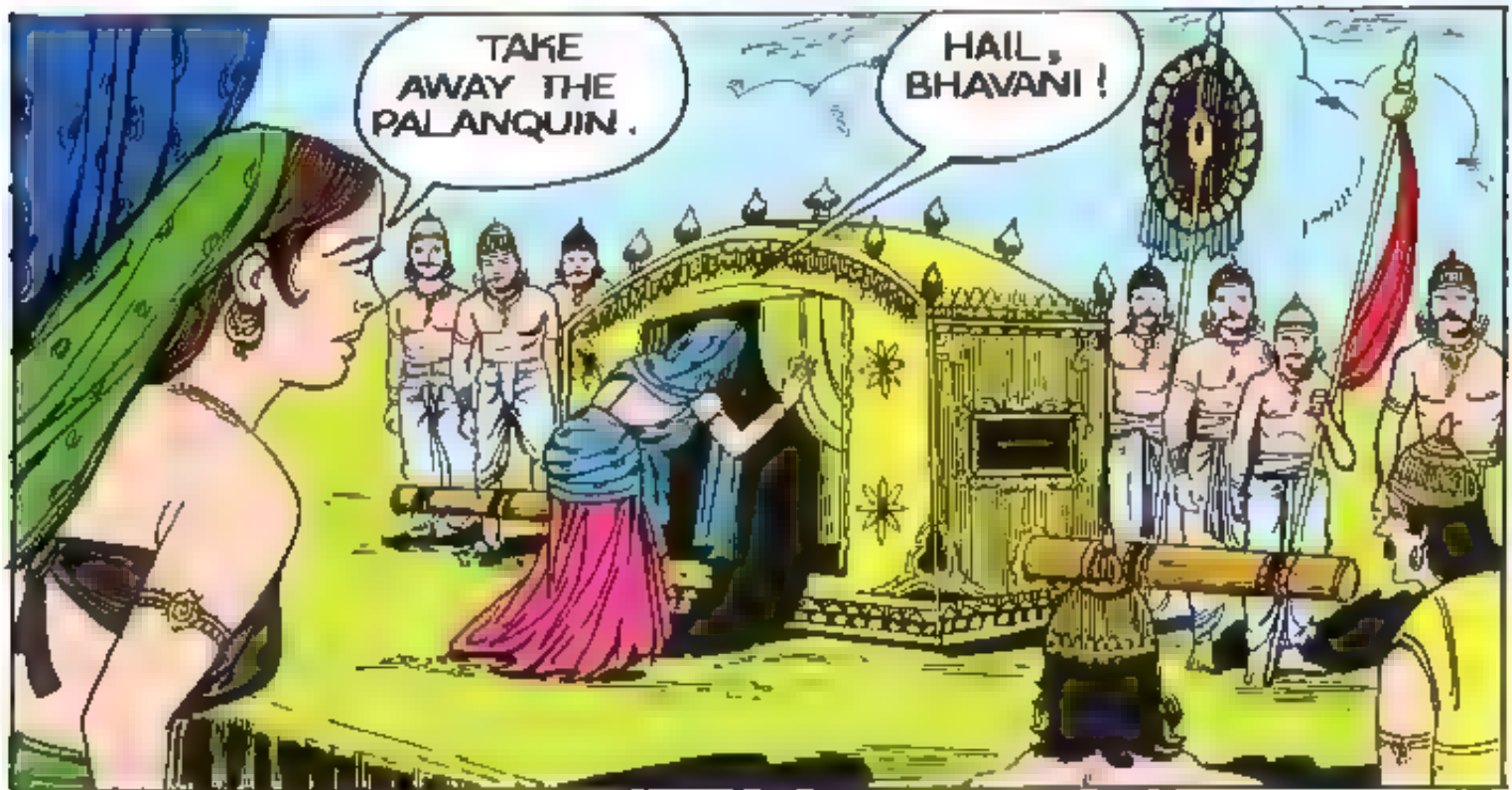
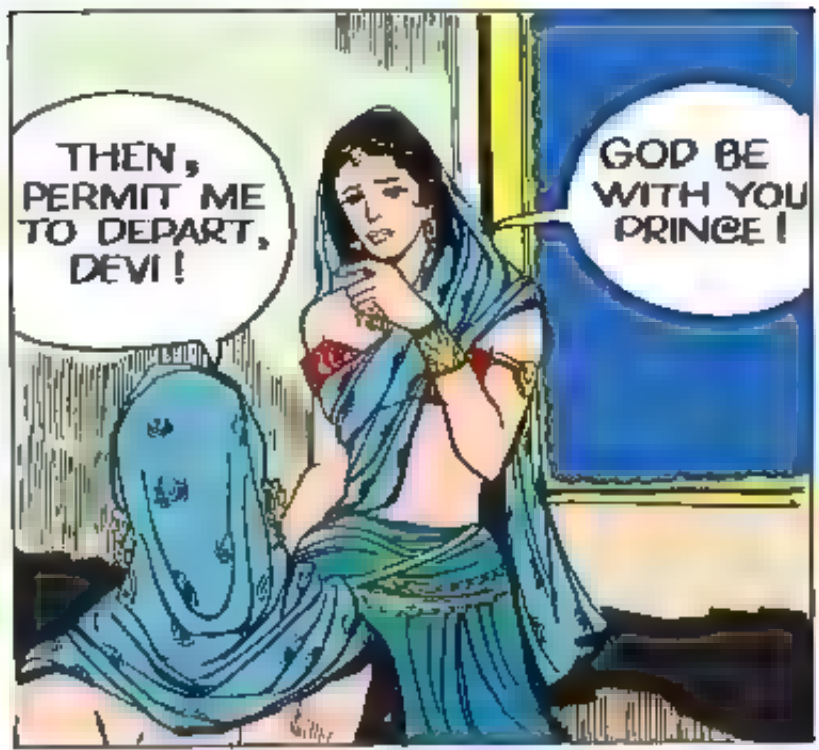
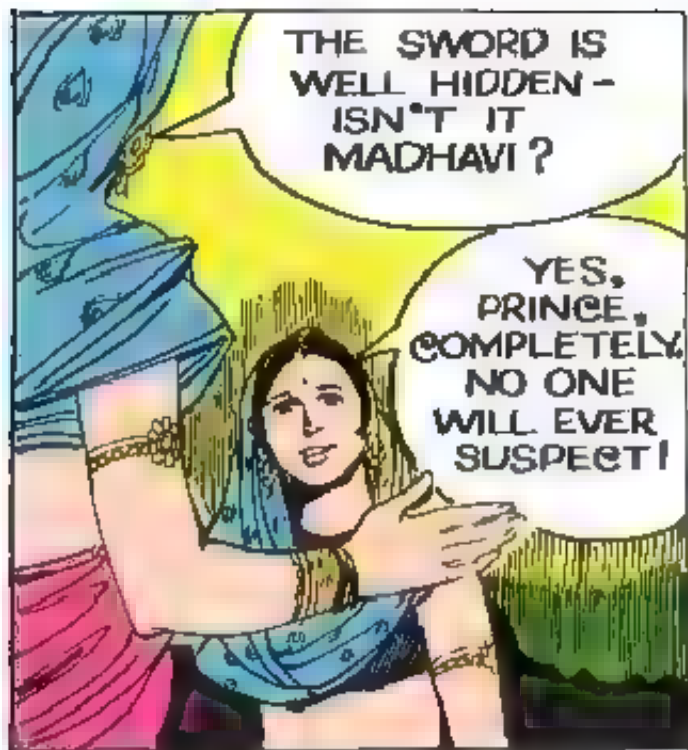
THERE IS NO  
ALTERNATIVE,  
CHANDRAGUPTA.

THIS MUST  
BE DONE - TO  
SAVE OUR  
COUNTRY,  
PRINCE.

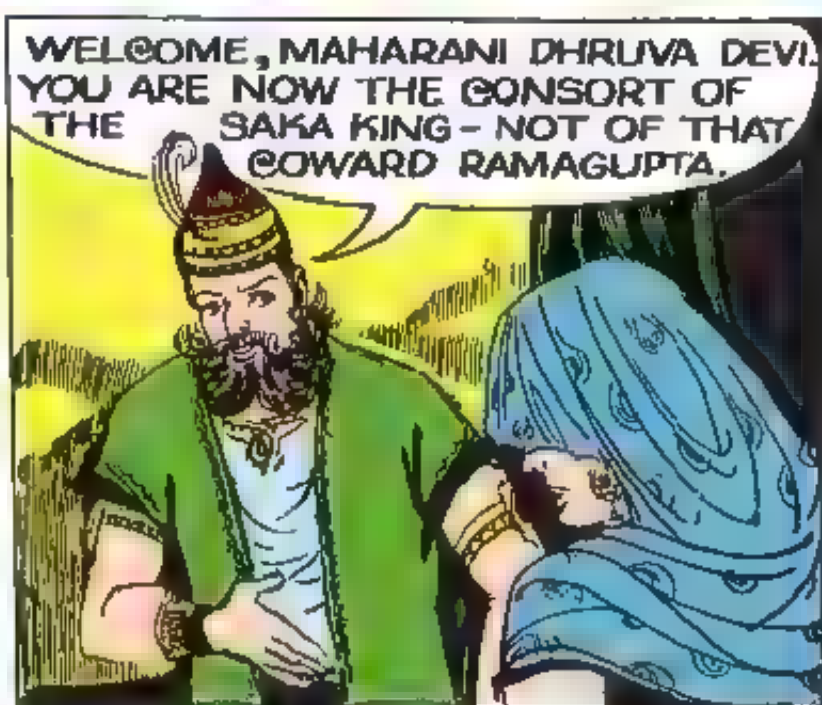
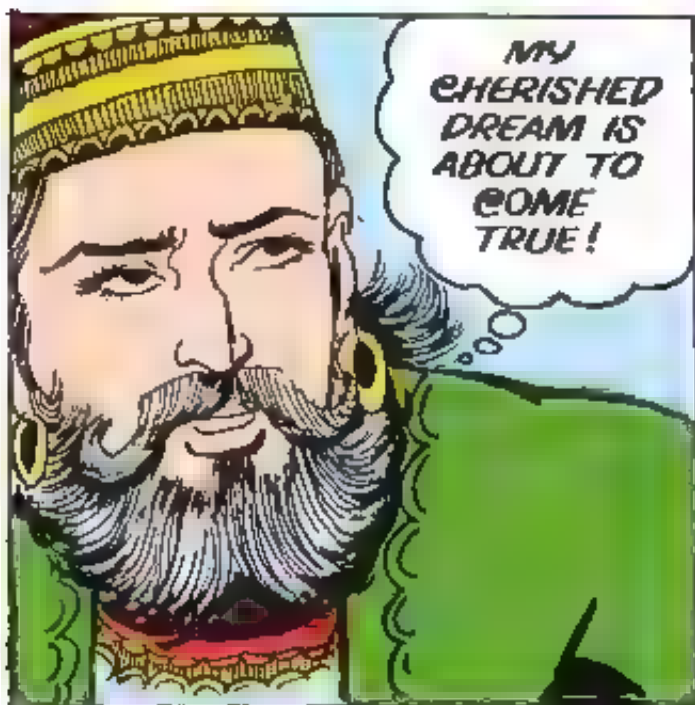
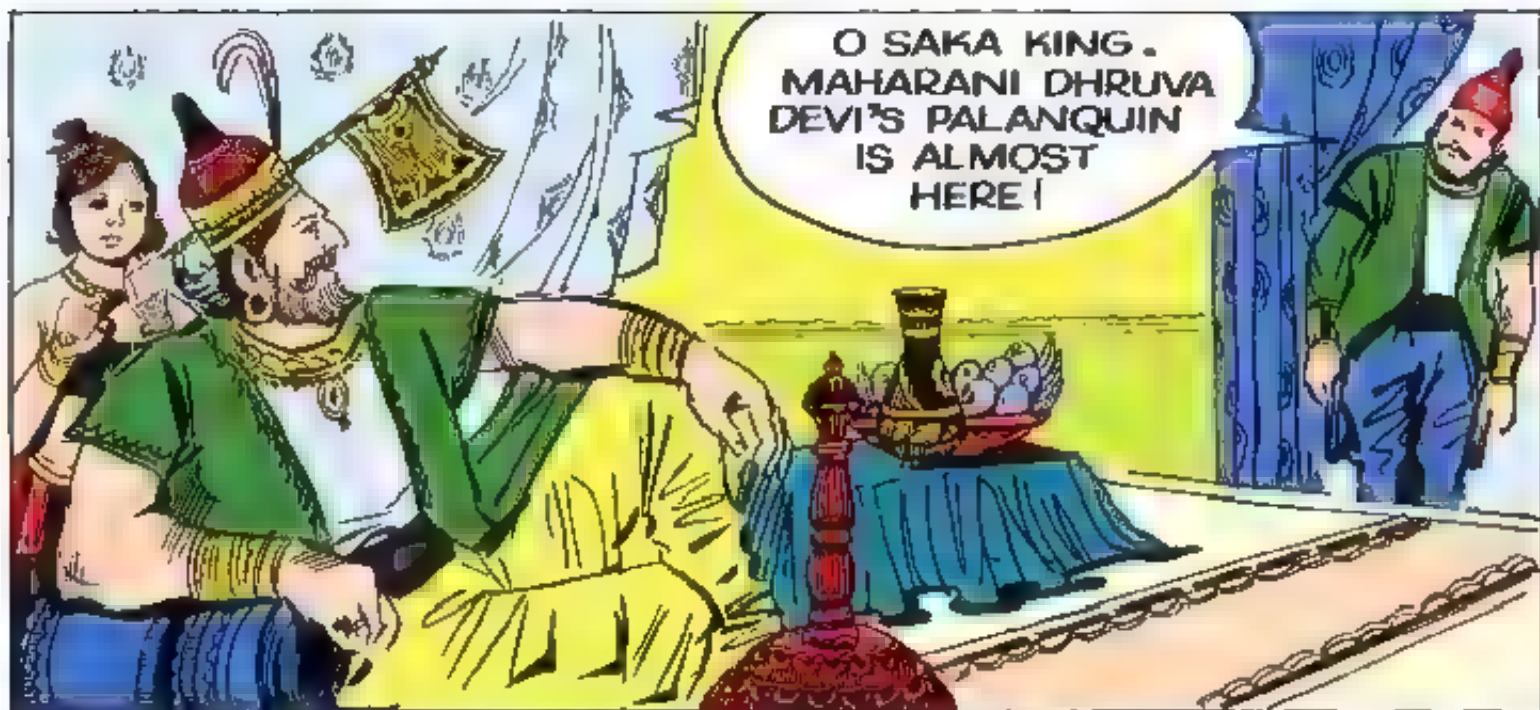








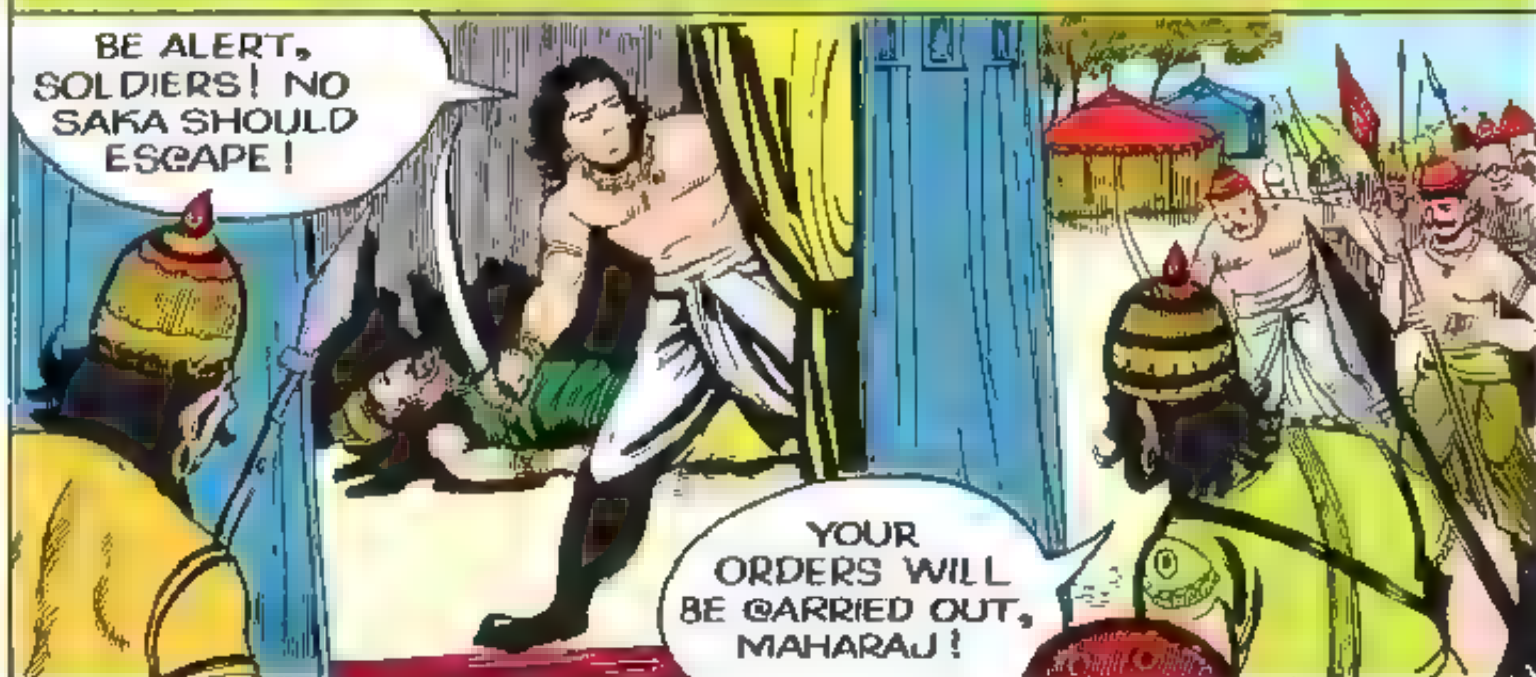








THE SAKA KING FELL WOUNDED. CHANDRAGUPTA'S MEN ENTERED THE CAMP.







IN A SHORT WHILE, THOUSANDS OF SAKA TROOPS WERE PUT TO DEATH.





HUNDREDS OF SAKA SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS WERE TAKEN PRISONERS.

OUR KING, THE  
GREAT CONQUEROR, IS  
NO MORE!



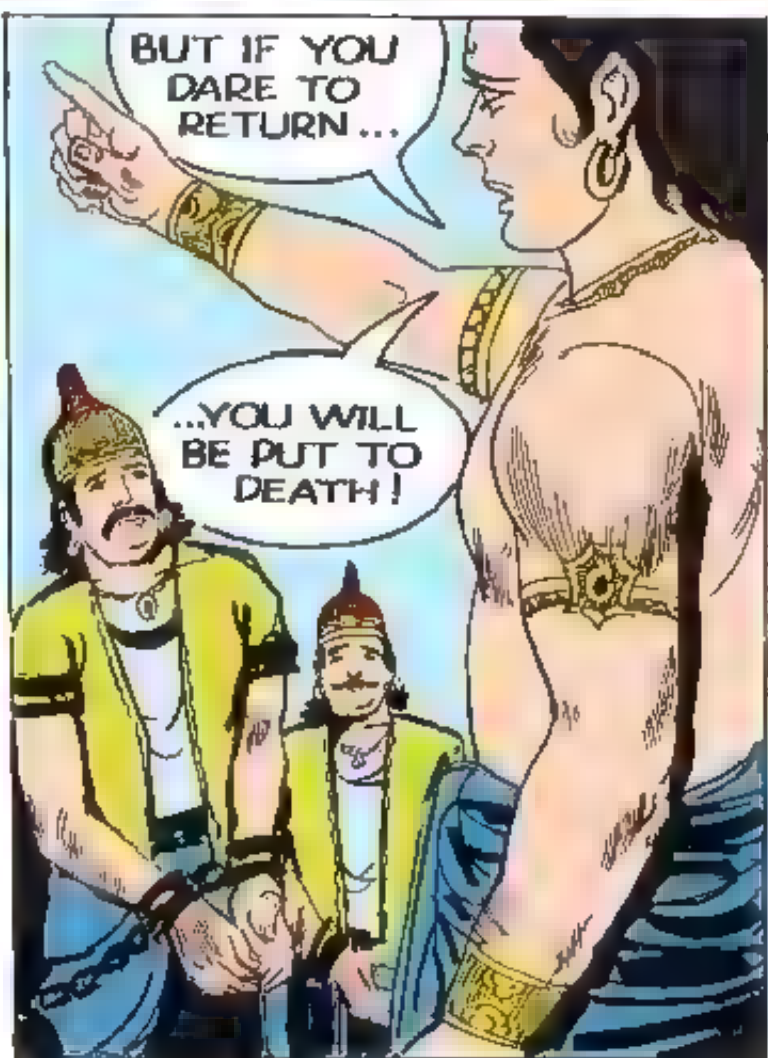
SPARE OUR  
LIVES - WE  
BEG OF YOU,  
COMMANDER.

YOU WILL  
BE BANISHED  
FROM THIS  
COUNTRY!



BUT IF YOU  
DARE TO  
RETURN...

...YOU WILL  
BE PUT TO  
DEATH!

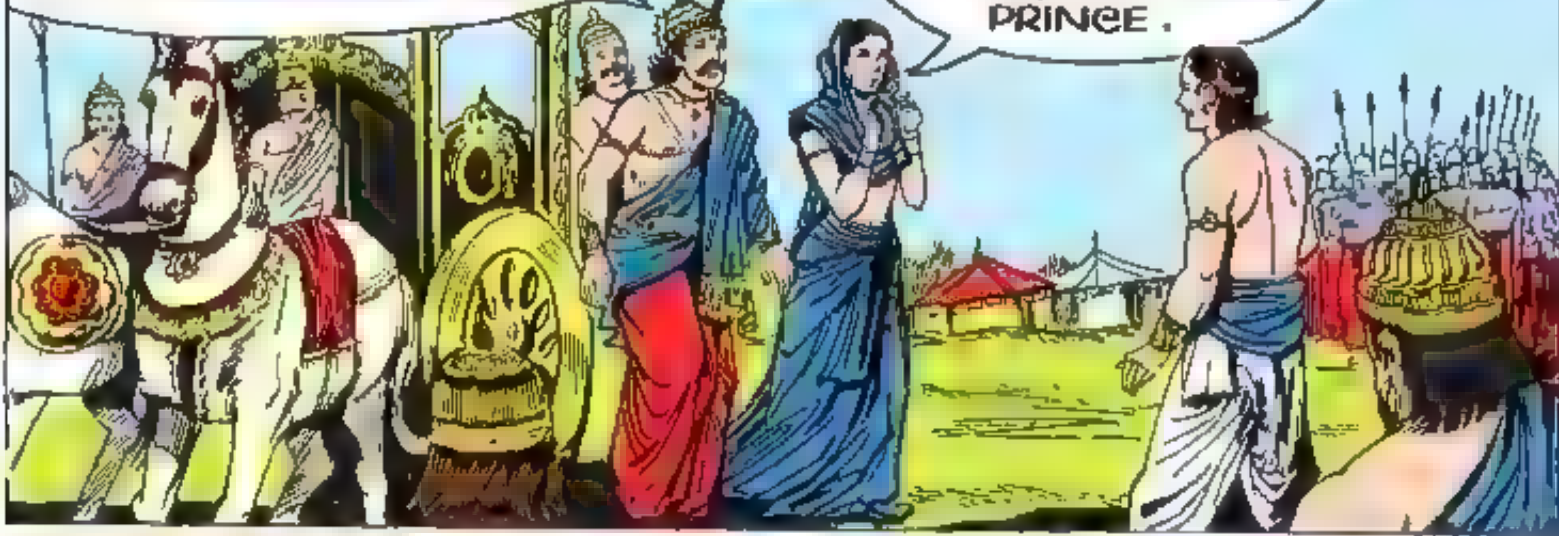




INFORMED OF THE SAKA DEBACLE, RAMAGUPTA AND DHRUVA DEVI  
ARRIVED ON THE SCENE.

I AM VERY PLEASED WITH  
YOU, CHANDRAGUPTA. YOU  
WILL BE REWARDED WELL.

I AM INDEBTED TO  
YOU, FOR EVER,  
PRINCE.



ON THEIR RETURN TO THE CAPITAL -

VICTORY TO  
CHANDRAGUPTA!

HAIL MAHARANI  
DHURVA DEVI!



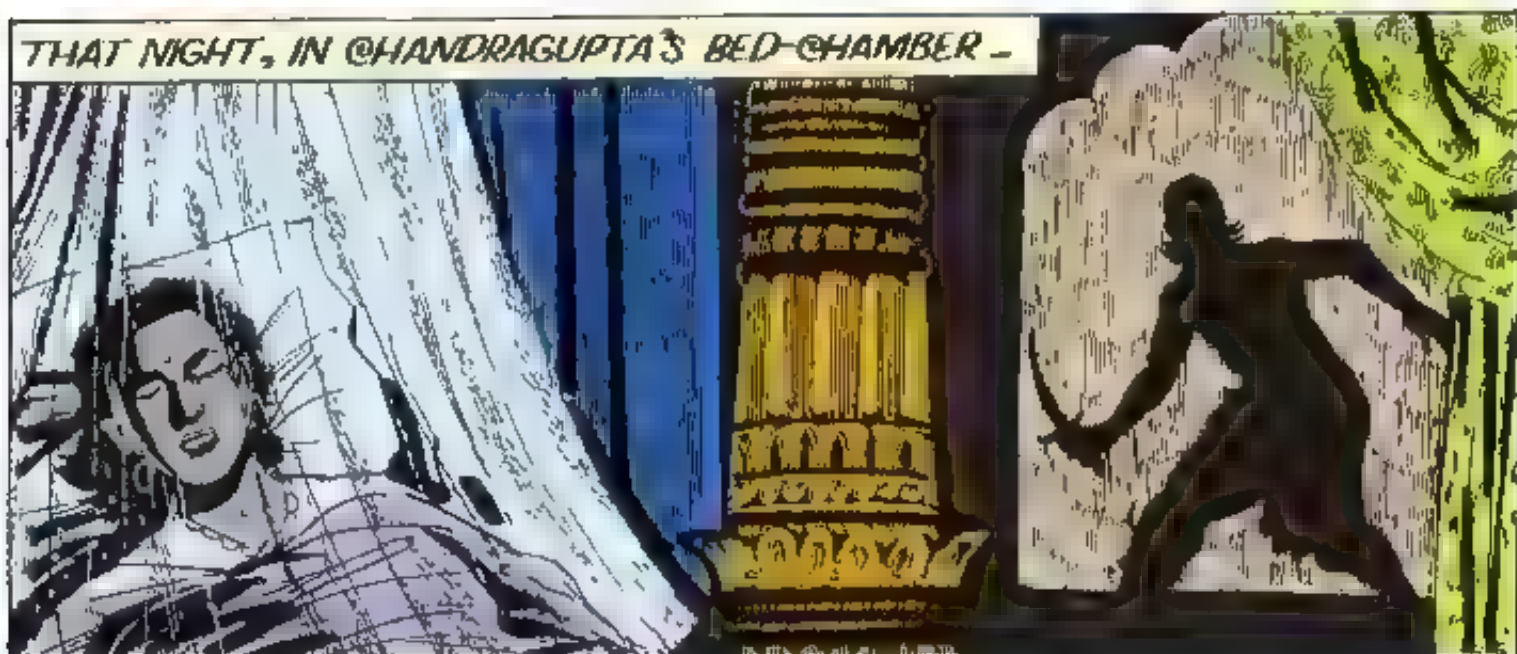
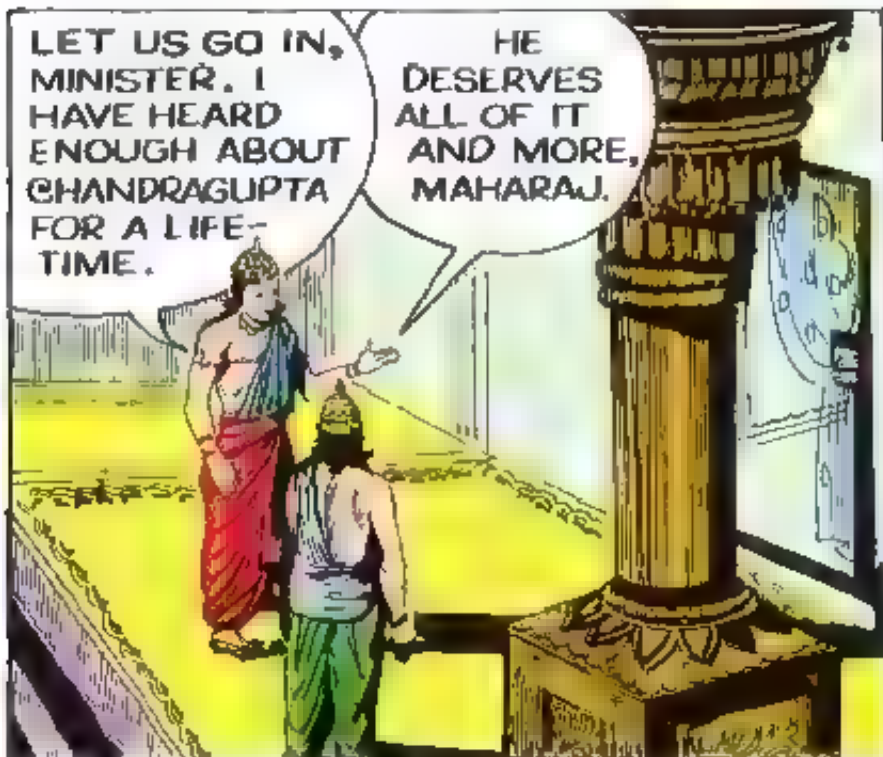
CHANDRAGUPTA WAS  
THE CHOSEN  
HEIR TO  
THE GUPTA  
THRONE!

MAHARAJ SAMUDRAGUPTA  
HAD HIMSELF NOMINATED  
HIM!

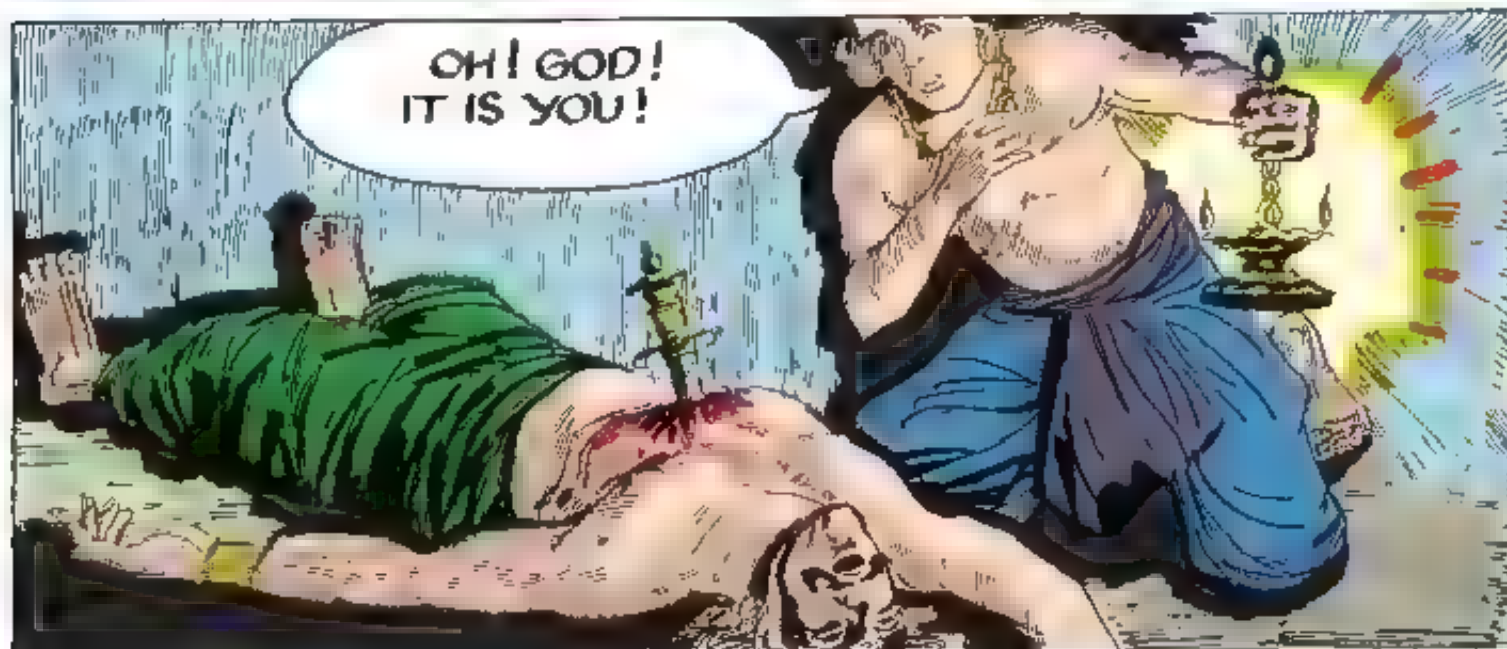
RAMAGUPTA  
IS A COWARD.  
HE HAS NO  
RIGHT TO BE  
THE KING.













IN THE COURT NEXT DAY..

I HAVE  
SAD NEWS  
FOR YOU.  
MAHARAJ  
RAMAGUPTA  
IS DEAD.

THE  
COWARD  
DESERVED  
IT!

IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, HE MADE A  
DASTARDLY ATTEMPT ON PRINCE  
CHANDRAGUPTA'S LIFE!

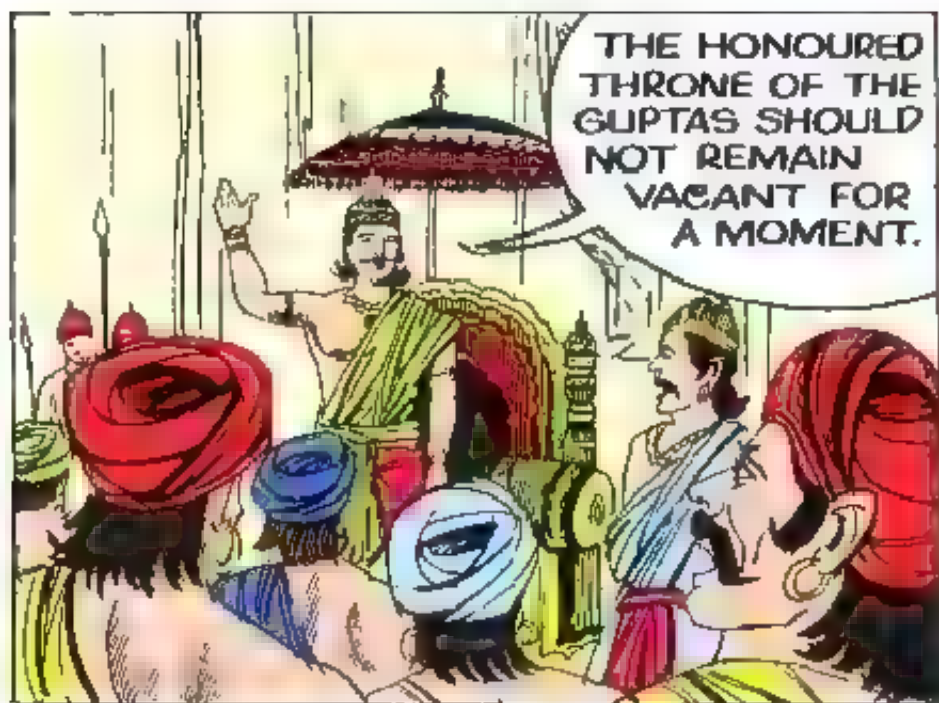
AT THAT MOMENT A THRONG OF PEOPLE ENTERED THE COURT.

VICTORY TO  
CHANDRAGUPTA!

HE CAN SAFEGUARD THE  
COUNTRY AND THE  
GUPTA TRADITIONS!

YES.  
PRINCE  
CHANDRAGU-  
PTA IS THE  
RIGHTFUL  
HEIR TO THE  
GUPTA  
THRONE.



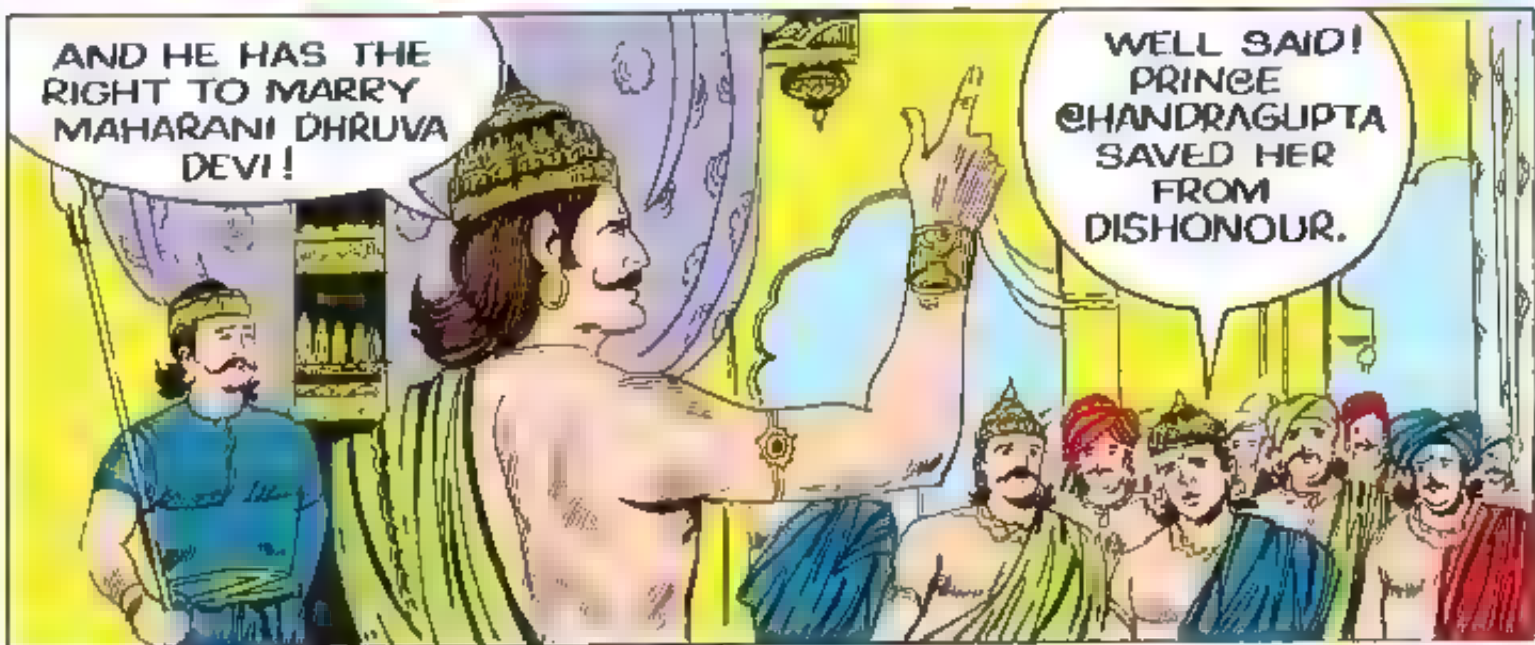






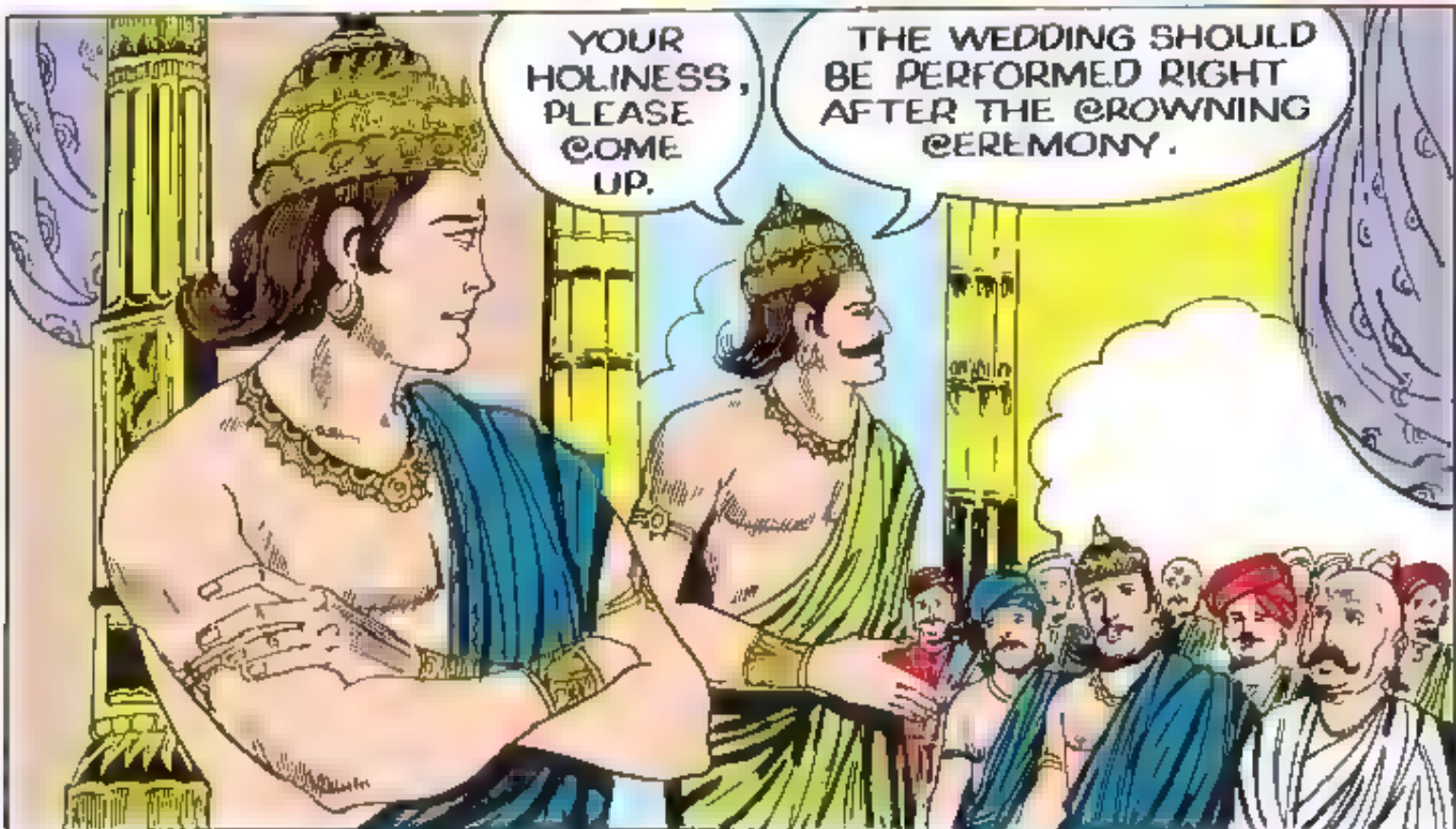
WE WILL LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA!

PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA IS THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO THE GUPTA THRONE!



AND HE HAS THE RIGHT TO MARRY MAHARANI DHRUVA DEVI!

WELL SAID! PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA SAVED HER FROM DISHONOUR.

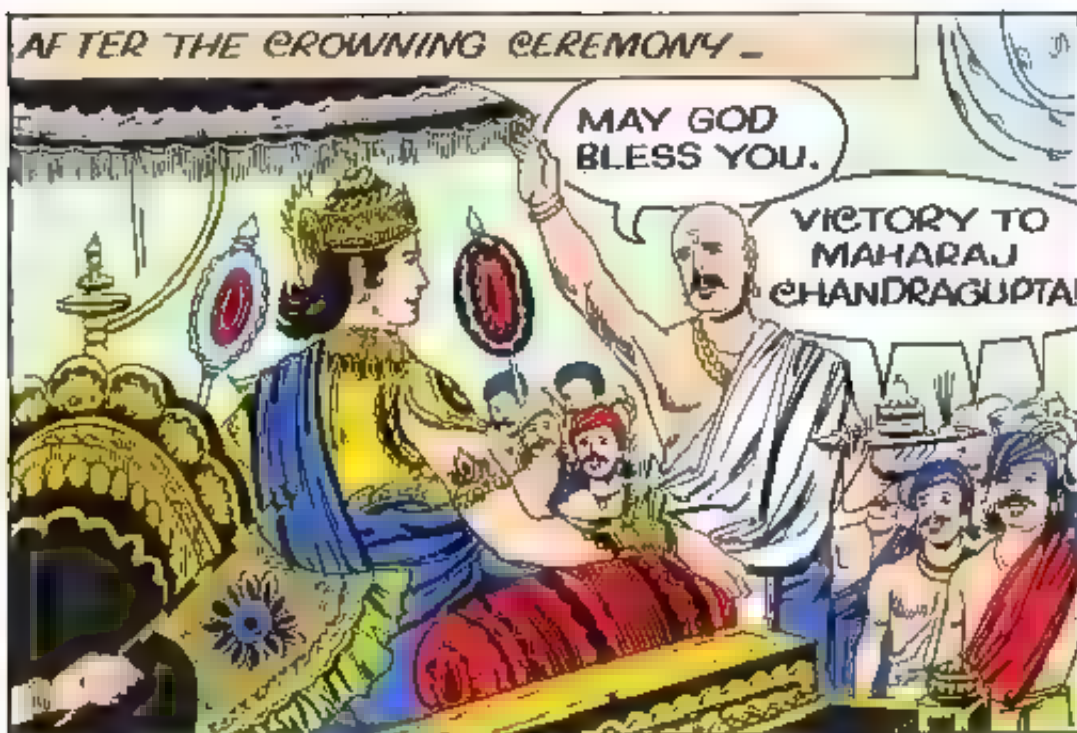


YOUR HOLINESS, PLEASE COME UP.

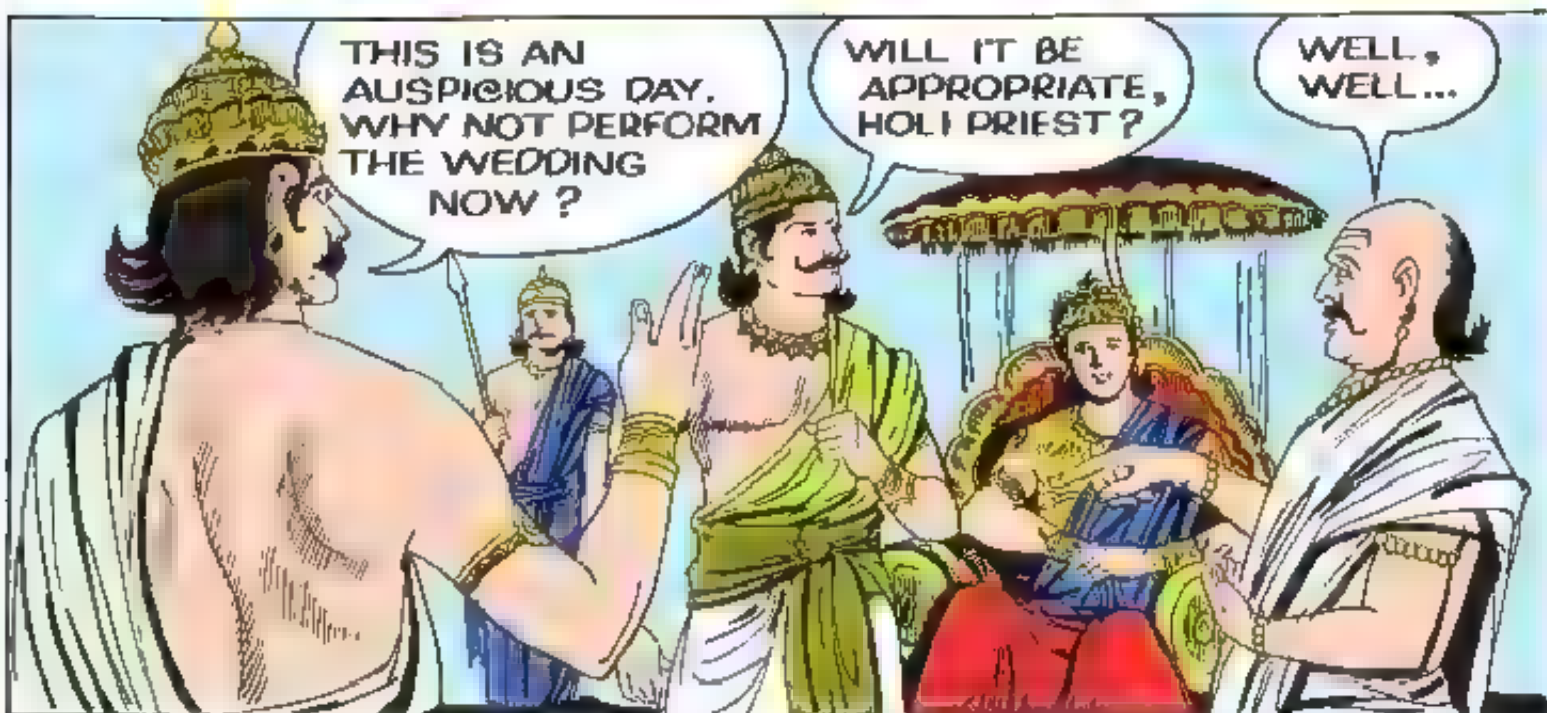
THE WEDDING SHOULD BE PERFORMED RIGHT AFTER THE CROWNING CEREMONY.



AFTER THE CROWNING CEREMONY...

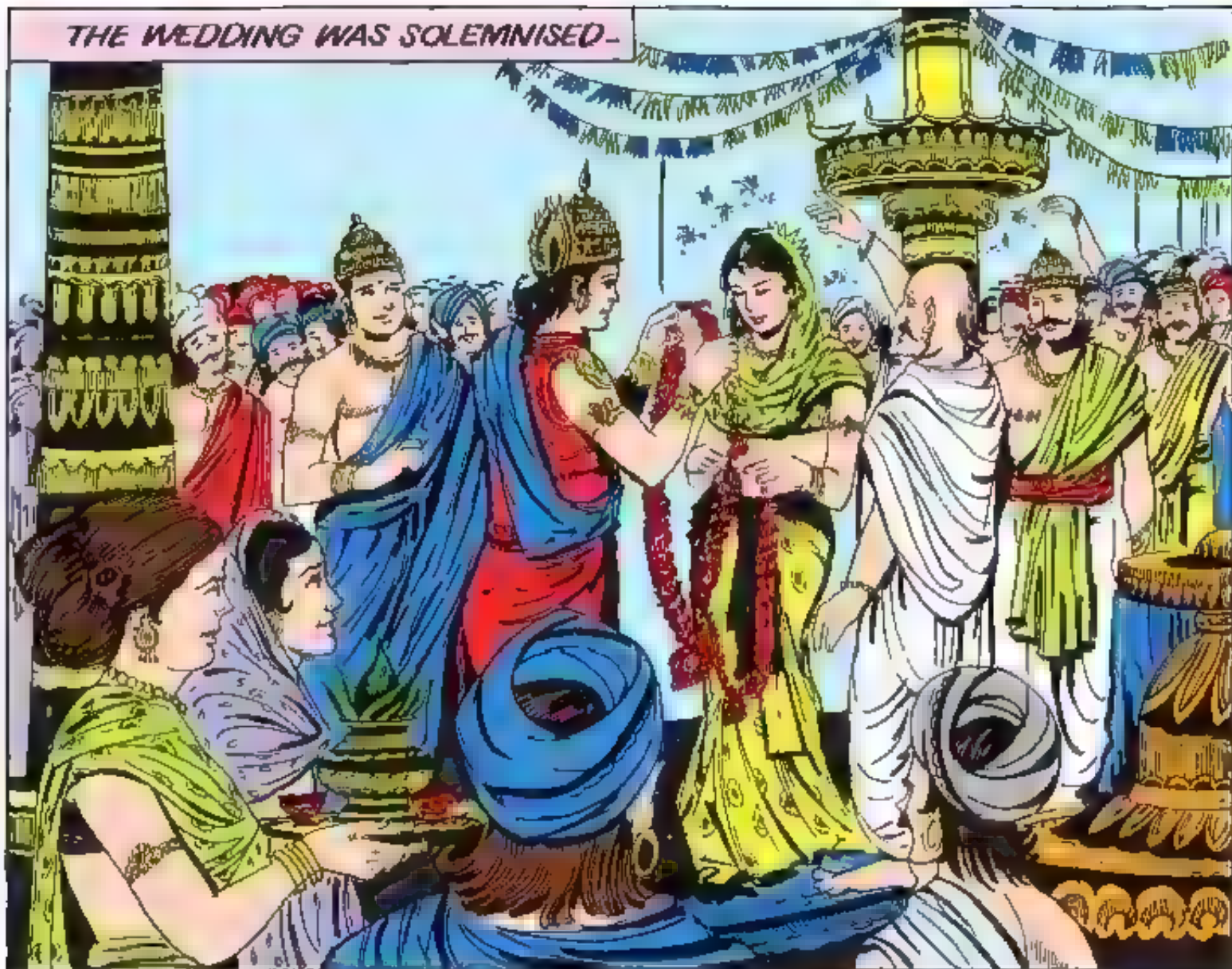


THE BURDEN OF DEFENDING THE COUNTRY IS NOW YOURS, MAHARAJ CHANDRAGUPTA.





THE WEDDING WAS SOLEMNISED-



MINISTER, PLEASE  
ASK THE PEOPLE TO  
STAY AWHILE!

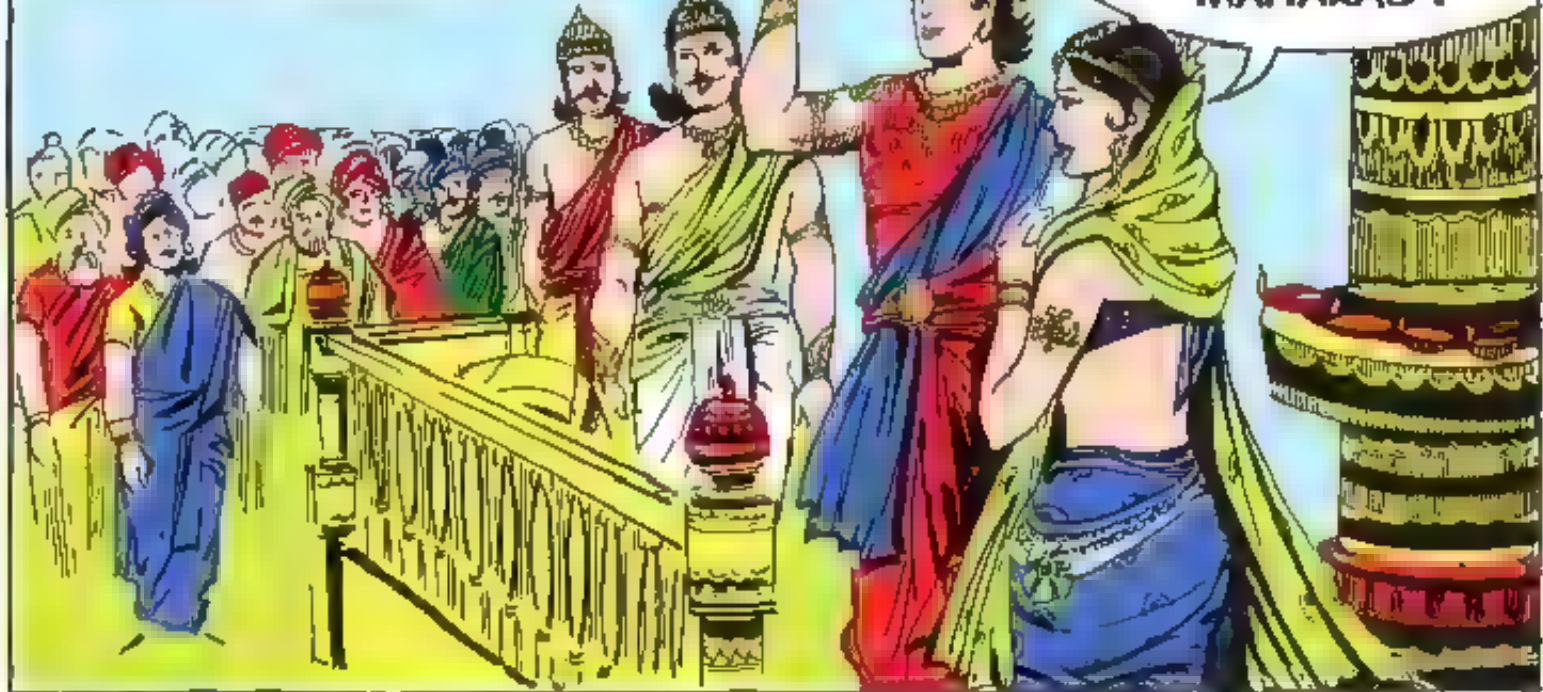
I HAVE TO MAKE  
A SPECIAL  
ANNOUNCEMENT.





MY COUNTRYMEN, AS YOU WILL  
BE MY WITNESS, I WILL NOT REST  
UNTIL I HAVE DRIVEN EVERY  
SINGLE SAKA OUT OF OUR  
COUNTRY.

IT WILL BE MY  
ENDEAVOUR TO KEEP  
THIS PROMISE ALIVE  
AND FRESH IN THE  
MIND OF OUR  
MAHARAJ.



*DHRUVA DEVI KEPT HER WORD. ONE DAY, AT THE COURT IN UJJAINI -*

YOU ARE A GREAT  
POET, KALIDASA!  
I WOULD LIKE TO  
SEE THE DRAMA  
'SHAKUNTALA' ENACT-  
ED AGAIN NEXT FULL-  
MOON DAY. WOULDN'T  
YOU, DEVI?

THERE  
IS GREAT  
CHARM IN  
THE POET'S  
WRITINGS.  
BUT  
MAHARAJ...

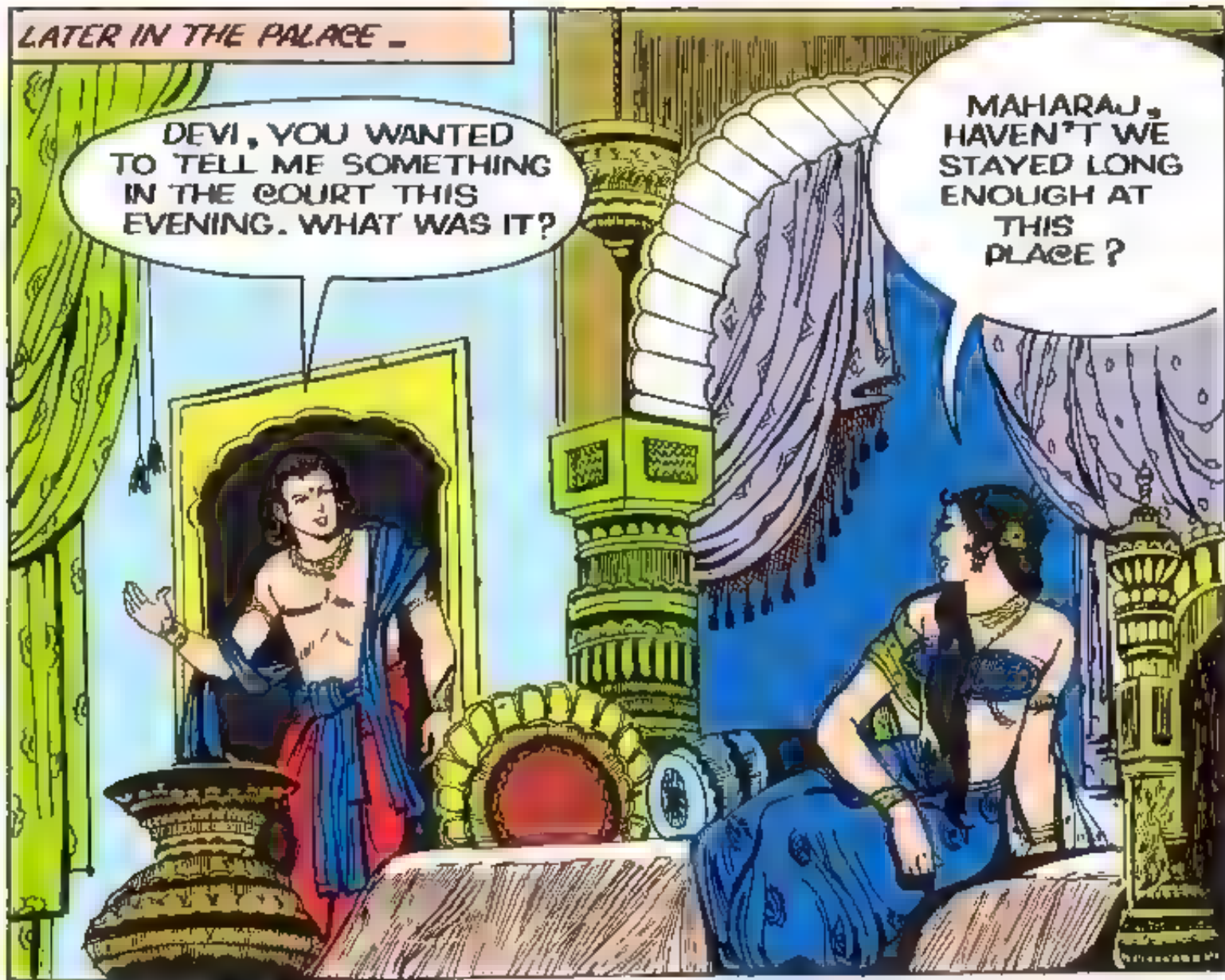




LATER IN THE PALACE -

DEVI, YOU WANTED  
TO TELL ME SOMETHING  
IN THE COURT THIS  
EVENING. WHAT WAS IT?

MAHARAJ,  
HAVEN'T WE  
STAYED LONG  
ENOUGH AT  
THIS  
PLACE?




I LIKE THE  
PLACE.  
I LIKE THE  
PEOPLE.

THE PEOPLE HERE ADORE  
YOU BECAUSE YOU FREED  
THEM FROM SAKA DOMINATION.  
THEY ALL REFER TO YOU  
AS VIKRAMADITYA.  
BUT...








BUT THE SAKAS  
STILL RULE IN  
GUJARAT. IS THAT  
WHAT YOU WANT  
TO REMIND ME  
ABOUT ?


YES AND NEAR  
THE BORDERS OF  
THIS COUNTRY  
THE KUSHANAS  
HARASS OUR  
PEOPLE .

*SPURRED BY THE WORDS OF DHRUVA DEVI, CHANDRAGUPTA SOON  
LEFT ON A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE SAKAS .*



MAY VICTORY BE  
WITH YOU !

*MONTHS LATER -*



MAHARANI,  
A LETTER FOR  
YOU FROM THE  
EMPEROR .

THEN WHAT I HEARD  
MUST BE RIGHT. THE  
MAHARAJ MUST HAVE  
WON THE BATTLE  
AGAINST THE SAKAS  
OF GUJARAT !

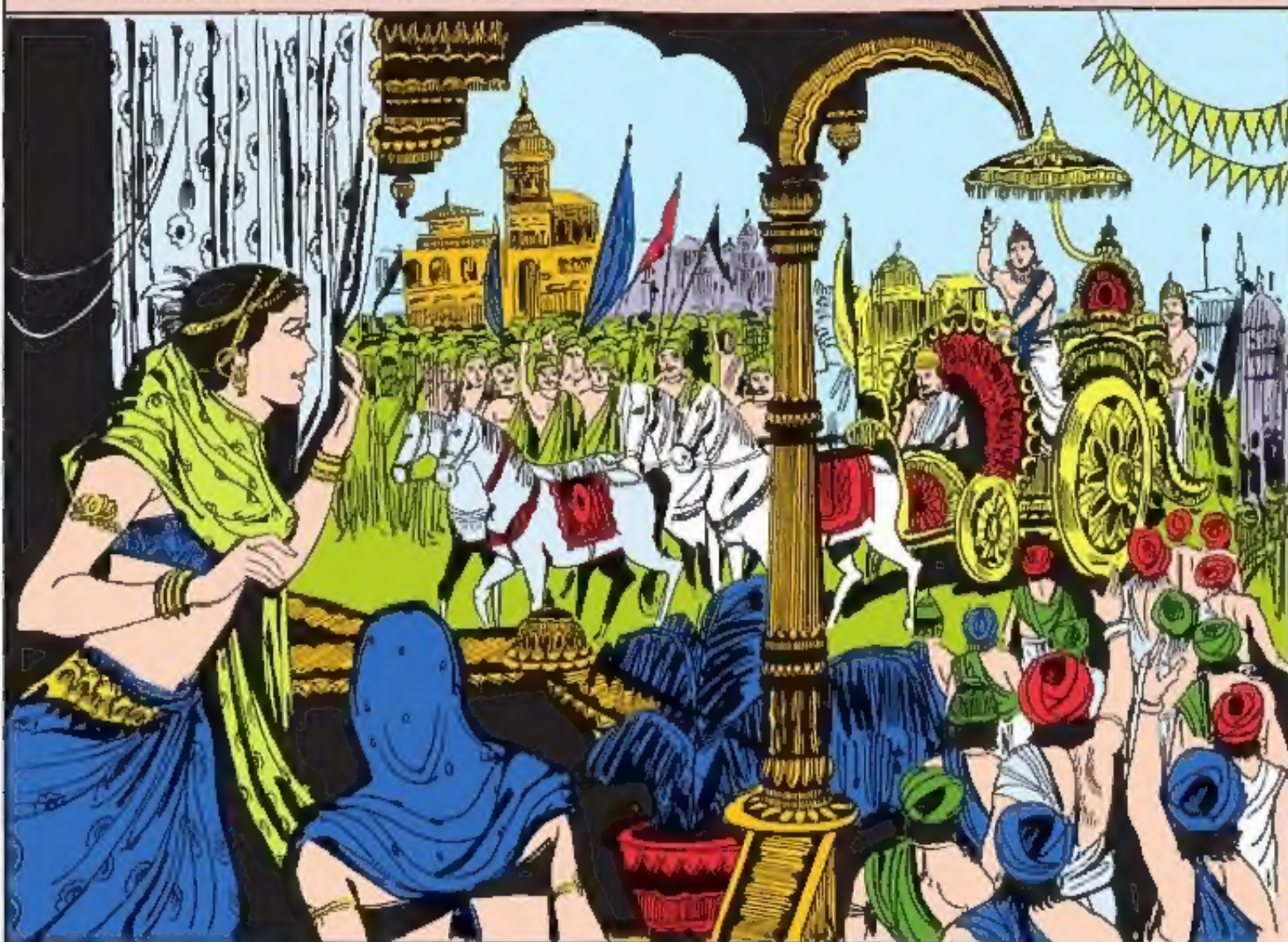


YES, MADHAVI. THE  
LAST VESTIGE OF  
FOREIGN RULE HAS  
BEEN REMOVED  
FROM OUR  
LAND...

...AND THE  
MAHARAJ WILL  
BE COMING  
BACK SOON.

GREAT  
NEWS!

PEOPLE GAVE AN ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME TO THEIR HERO ON HIS RETURN.



LATER CHANDRAGUPTA WENT AS FAR AS BACTRIA, BEYOND THE HINDU  
KUSH MOUNTAINS AND DEFEATED THE KUSHANAS TOO.



# WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

## EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY

Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas

Abhimanyu  
Agastya  
Andhaka  
Aniruddha  
Arjuni And Uttanka  
Ashwini Kumars  
Ayyappa  
Bahubali  
Bhanumati  
Bheema And Hanuman  
Bhishma  
Chandrasekhar  
Dasharatha  
Dhruva And Ashtavakra  
Draupadi  
Drona  
Elephantia  
Gandhari  
Ganesha  
Ganesha And The Moon  
Ganga  
Garuda  
Ghatotkacha  
Hanuman  
Hanuman To The Rescue  
Hanschandra  
Heroes Of Hampi  
Indra And Shachi  
Indra And Shibi  
Indra And Vritra  
Jagannatha Of Puri  
Jayadratha  
Kacha And Devayani  
Karna  
Karttikeya  
Konark  
Krishna  
Krishna And Jarasandha  
Krishna And Narakasura  
Krishna And Rukmini  
Krishna And Shishupala  
Krishna And The False  
Vaasudeva  
Kubera  
Kumbhakarna  
Mahabharata  
Mahiravana  
Nachiketa  
Nahusha  
Nala Damayanti  
Parikshit  
Parashurama  
Prabhavali  
Pradyumna  
Prahla  
Purushottam Dev And  
Padmavati  
Rama  
Ravana Humbled  
Saraswati  
Satl And Shiva  
Savitri  
Shiva Parvati  
Stories of Creation  
Subhadra  
Sudama  
Sukanya  
Surya  
Tales From The  
Upanishads  
Tales Of Arjuna  
Tales Of Balarama  
Tales Of Durga  
Tales Of Indra  
Tales Of Narada

Tales Of Shiva  
Tales Of Vishnu  
Tales Of Yudhishtira  
Tapali  
Thanjavur  
The Churning Of The  
Ocean  
The Gita  
The Golden Mongoose  
The King In  
A Parrot's Body  
The Lord Of Lanka  
The Pandava Princes  
The Pandavas In Hiding  
The Parijata Tree  
The Sons Of Rama  
The Syamantaka Gem  
Tirupati  
Tripura  
Uloopi  
Valmiki  
Vishnu Devi  
Vallu  
Vishwamitra  
Yayati

## VISIONARIES

Inspiring tales of thinkers,  
social reformers and  
nation builders

Adi Shankara  
Albert Einstein  
Anant Pal  
Babasaheb Ambedkar  
Basaveshwara  
Buddha  
Chaitanya Mahaprabhu  
Chanakya  
Chokha Mela  
Dayananda  
Dashbandhu  
Chittaranjan Das  
Eknath  
Fa Hien  
Ghanshyamdas Birla  
Guru Arjan  
Guru Gobind Singh  
Guru Har Gobind  
Guru Nanak  
Guru Tegh Bahadur  
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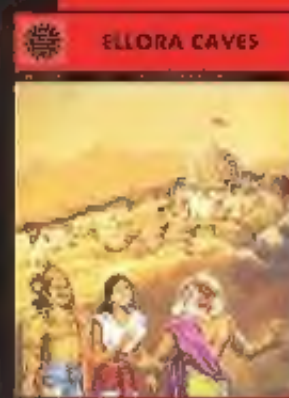
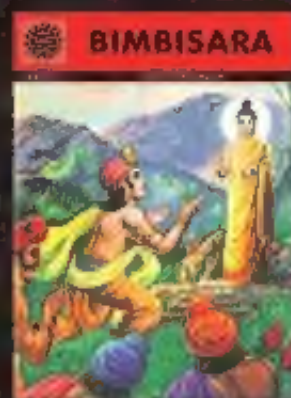
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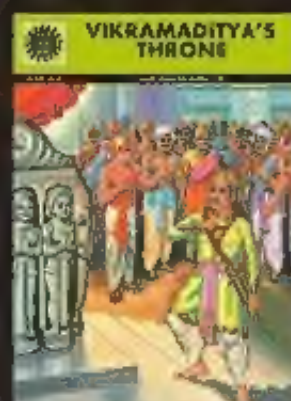
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